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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/054,660	04/03/98	EGGERS	F

ARTHROCARE CORPORATION
595 N. PASTORIA AVENUE
SUNNYVALE CA 94086

QM41/0609

EXAMINER	
PEFFLEY, M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3739	

DATE MAILED: 06/09/99

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/054,660

Applicant(s)

Eggers et al

Examiner

Michael Peffley

Group Art Unit

3739



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 41-119 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) 41-119 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 41-119 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Restriction Requirement

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 41-87, drawn to a method of treating a patient's heart, classified in class 128, subclass 898.
- II. Claims 88-119, drawn to an electrosurgical device, classified in class 606, subclass 41.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus may be used for materially different processes such as treating uterine tissue or vascular tissue.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Peffley whose telephone number is (703) 308-4305. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Application/Control Number: 09/054,660

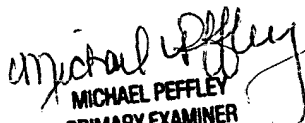
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In the event the examiner can not be reached or is absent from the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak, can be reached at (703) 308-0994.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858. The formal fax number for the Group is (703) 305-3590.

Michael Peffley/mp
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739
June 2, 1999


MICHAEL PEFFLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 3739